4

Depending on the reason you are prescribed PEP, you may qualify for free or low-cost PEP medicines.

- If you were **sexually assaulted**, you might qualify for partial or total reimbursement for medicines and clinical care costs. Find resources in your area at **www.justice.gov/ovw/local-resources.**

- If you think you were **exposed to HIV at work,** your workplace health insurance or workers' compensation will usually pay for PEP.

If you cannot get insurance coverage, your health care provider can apply for free PEP medicines through the medication assistance programs run by the manufacturers. Learn more at **www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/pep/paying-for-pep.**

3

No. PEP should be used only in emergency situations.

- PEP is prescribed after a possible exposure to HIV.

- PEP is not a substitute for regular use of other HIV prevention.

- PEP is not the right choice for people who may be exposed to HIV frequently.

- If you are at ongoing risk for HIV, such as through repeated exposures to HIV, talk to your health care provider about PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis).
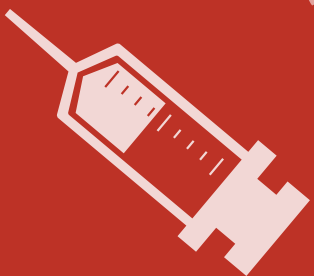
Is PEP Right for You?

If you're HIV-negative or don't know your HIV status and in the last 72 hours you

- May have been exposed to HIV during sex (for example, if the condom broke),
- Were sexually assaulted, or
- Shared needles, syringes, or other equipment to inject drugs

Talk to your health care provider, an emergency room doctor, or an urgent care provider about PEP right away.

What is PEP?

1

PEP, or post-exposure prophylaxis, means taking medicine to prevent getting HIV after a possible exposure.

PEP must be started within 72 hours (3 days) after you may have been exposed to HIV. But the sooner you start PEP, the better. Every hour counts!

72 HOURS

- If your health care provider prescribes PEP, you'll need to take it daily for 28 days.

- PEP is effective in preventing HIV, but not 100%. While taking PEP, always use condoms with sex partners and use safe injection practices.

PEP

If you may have been exposed to HIV in the last 72 hours (3 days), talk to a health care provider about PEP right away.

For more information on PEP, visit **www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/pep** and for general information about HIV call **1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)**.